

*Please add the Abstract on new page 15, as shown below:*

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention concerns a catalytic composition comprising a catalyst effective for catalysing asymmetric hydrogenation reactions, which catalyst requires acid activation, an acidic material effective for activating the catalyst, and a buffering compound or composition capable of forming, in the presence of the acidic material, an acetal, a ketal, a hemiacetal, and/or a hemiketal. The invention also relates to an asymmetric hydrogenation process utilising such a catalytic composition, and to the use of such a catalytic composition for improving the enantiomeric excess of a desired asymmetrically hydrogenated product.

*Please substitute the following title on page 13, at line 1 as shown below:*

#### ~~CLAIMS~~

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: